

Wycombe hold out in goalless draw

WALTHAMSTOW 0 : WYCOMBE WAN 0

WEAKENED Wycombe Wanderers managed to hold out for a point in a goalless draw at Walthamstow today.

Walthamstow: Brommett; Gray, King, Andrews, Walsh, Moxon; Ordel, J. Lewis, Battram, Treadwell, Harvey.

Wycombe: Syrett; Beck, Pullin; Maharg, A. Lewis, Gale; Samuels. Horseman, Lowen, Balson, Hodges.

Referee: F. L. Day (Bromley).

Wycombe found the icy conditions not to their liking and it was Walthamstow who did the early attacking. But Syrett saved well twice, before Balson broke away to test Brommett.

Syrett pushed away an Andrews shot and then Wycombe broke away for Lowen to shoot high and wide. They were unlucky, however, when Horseman headed their first corner inches over the bar.

After surviving the early Walthamstow pressure, Wycombe were coming more into the game and Balson especially looked dangerous.

DIVING SAVE

Walthamstow suddenly woke up but Treadwell missed a great chance with only Syrett to beat. Then Syrett made a grand diving save from the inside forward.

Wycombe made most of the running but their finishing was poor.

Half-time: Walthamstow 0, Wycombe 0.

Wycombe, unbeaten in the last four games, had to defend stubbornly after the interval, but Syrett was in good form and one save from Treadwell was really remarkable.

Gale sent Hodges away, but his low cross was blocked and then Lowen lobbed a shot over the goalkeeper and the bar with no-one to beat.

HEADER SAVED

The pace continued to liven and Samuels, who played a thoughtful game, had a neat header saved.

Maharg, who played a thoughtful game was sticking like a limpet to Jim Lewis. It certainly paid dividends.

But, hard as both sides tried, the final goal touch was missing.

RESULT:

WALTHAMSTOW 0
WYCOMBE 0

WYCOMBE OUT OF LUCK

Walthamstow 0 Wycombe 0

SHREWD defensive scheming by Frank Westley, Wycombe's former left-back who deputised for absent coach Don Welsh, checked a more powerful Walthamstow attack and earned a valuable Isthmian League point, writes **COLIN BARR**.

Wycombe lined up without their England right winger Len Worley (unfit with mumps) and centre half Peter Roystone (ill with a heavy cold)—two of their strongest players.

So Westley ordered strong defensive measures which included the non-stop shadowing of Avenue's chief goal-chaser, Jim Lewis, by sturdy Wycombe right half George Maharg.

Wandering Lewis, who has scored three hat-tricks this season, never completed a dangerous shot—thanks to cover-man Maharg.

Said Westley after the game: "Apart from our sound defensive work we put in some excellent attacking, and twice Peter Lowen was unlucky not to claim the match-winner."

I agree. Avenue's 4-2-4 formation was well shaken after the interval when leader Lowen, John Balson, and George Gale narrowly missed scoring.

Coach Welsh, who was watching Wycombe's Amateur Cup rivals Whitley Bay k.o. Bishop Auckland, should be well pleased with this Wycombe performance.